

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Kuhn, U.S. Patent No. 5,184,930 in view of the Netherlands Patent 325,811 for the reasons indicted at Item 6 on pages 3 and 4 of the Patent Office Action.

Claims 3 and 7-10 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

In response to these rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, Applicants have cancelled original claims 1-10 and provided new claims 11-29 with independent claims 22, 23 and 24 being addressed to the allowable subject matter of original claims 3, 7 and 8.

Additionally, Applicants have added a new independent claim 11 and dependent claims 12-21 which provide features not shown or disclosed or made obvious by the references to Kuhn or the Netherlands Patent '811.

According to independent claim 11, there are at least two lifting columns interconnected by a digital data bus in such a way that the control of the system can be performed at each of the columns. That is, there is no master-slave control algorithm which is normal for digital data buses for intercommunication. All columns can be addressed and controlled to be function or to be activated from each one of the columns so that when a vehicle is being lifted, mechanics can move around the vehicle and

control the lifting device individually from each column without requiring a central computer.

The reference to Kuhn '930 has a lifting system without a control means for the drive means. The Netherlands Patent '811 has been cited for showing an operating means connected to connecting lines in a closed circuit for a simultaneous actuation of the control means.

Even accepting the statement of the rejection for the showing of these references and even accepting that, for purposes of argument, the references could be combined, there is no showing in either of the references of the claimed invention defined by independent claim 11 with respect to each lifting column having an operating means connected to the connecting lines for simultaneous actuation of the control means of all lifting columns. The emphasis in this aspect of the invention is that each lifting column can control all of the lifting columns which is a feature not shown or disclosed or made obvious by any of the references of record and particularly the references to Kuhn and the Netherlands Patent or any combination which would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The dependent claims 12-21 depend from and contain all the limitations of independent claim 11 while claims 22-29 are addressed to allowable subject matter incorporated into independent form based on the indicated allowability of original

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claims 3 and 7-10 if amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112.

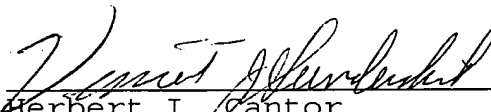
Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this application containing claims 11-29 be allowed and be passed to issue.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #1729/48015).

Respectfully submitted,

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Herbert I. Cantor
Registration No. 24,392
Vincent J. Sunderdick
Registration No. 29,004

HIC/VJS/rrt

EVENSON, McKEOWN, EDWARDS
& LENAHA, P.L.L.C.
1200 G Street, N.W., Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone No.: (202) 628-8800
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844